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RURAL PROGRAM OF CHINA NEW DEMOCRACY YOUTH CORPS

[Comment: ~~This report summarizes~~ information in the monograph Nung-ts'un Ch'ing-nien-t'uan-ti Fang-chen yu Jen-wu (Program and Task of the New Democracy Youth Corps in the Countryside), published in Peiping, June 1951, by the Ch'ing-nien Ch'u-pan-she. The monograph reported on a national conference on youth corps activities held in August 1950 (presumably in Peiping).]

Rapid Development of New Democracy Youth Corps

Statistics compiled in June 1950 show that about 11,600 special youth cadres had been trained and that there were 410,000 youth corps members in the newly liberated areas. As to the quality of membership, 70 percent were former hired farm laborers or poor farmers.

In some localities, there had been too great a desire for rapid expansion in corps organization. The slogan "a youth corps in every village" is not a proper one. Also, membership in the youth corps must be limited to youth. In some parts of Hupeh Province, 41 percent of the corps were adults.

Some youth corps units were set up in opposition to the life of the home, although the home is the economic unit of China. This has hindered production, and is an improper attitude.

Relationship of Youth Corps to Other Organizations

The aim of the youth corps is to help other organizations. For example, young men and women are to mobilize other youth to join farmers' associations and the movement for increased agricultural production.

Where the party is weak, the youth corps should prepare the way for the establishment of the party.

In movements such as that for land reform, the youth corps should never have its own reform organization independent of the general movement. Youth corps members should never consider the corps an independent organization. The youth corps must always report to the higher organization of the party. On the other hand, the party should always give due praise to the youth corps for the splendid help given in such movements as land reform.

Youth corps cadres of one village should always keep in touch with the corps organizations in the neighboring villages.

Examples of Help Given by Corps Members.

Youth corps members have been most helpful in propaganda and teaching work. They have given practical demonstrations of what can be done in such matters as pulling plows. Statistics for 499 villages in southern Chahar show that 4,893 corps members organized 9,565 men into small plowing teams, men taking the place of animals in pulling the plows.

Corps members have been able to overcome the first attitude of some farmers that "You know how to talk well, but not how to do the actual work." Corps members, more receptive to new ideas, have taken the lead in promoting better methods of farming. Those members opposed to superstition have overcome the tendency to blame "Heaven" for disasters when floods or insects spoil the crops.

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Youth corps members have promoted modern methods in such matters as the selection of better seed, its preparation by immersion in warm water, and by mixing with disinfectants. Members have encouraged farmers to undertake supplementary work in the winter slack season, often furnishing good examples themselves. Examples of such work are driving donkeys to transport goods, the making of saltpeter, and the plaiting of mats.

Youth corps members have been active in insect extermination, and have led in flood-control and rescue work and in building dikes. They also have been active in the militia; in parts of Hunan Province, 21 percent of the militia are members of the youth corps.

Women members of the youth corps have pulled plows, mobilized women to take part in women's movements and in the movement for increased production, and have become more politically conscious.

Finally, many active members of the youth corps have joined the Communist Party.

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